

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00
INRE-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07 IO-13 L-03
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FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4723
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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USDEL MBFR VIENNA IMMEDIATE
USNMR SHAPE BE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

S E C R E T NATO 06579

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO
SUBJECT: MBFR: DRAFT GUIDANCE ON DATA EXCHANGE WITH THE
EAST

REF: NATO 6548 (DTG 071603Z JUL 77)

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1. FRG DELEGATION OFFICER CITRON INFORMED US SHORTLY AFTER
OPENING OF BUSINESS ON JULY 8 THAT BONN HAD DIFFICULTY WITH
THE WAY THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF HAD AMENDED THE ENDING OF
THE SECOND SENTENCE IN PARA 1 OF THE DRAFT GUIDANCE TO MAKE
IT READ BETTER: "...GROUND FORCE MANPOWER AS A FIRST STEP
AND AIR MANPOWER AS A SECOND STEP." (TEXT IN REFTEL). THE
IS HAD NOT INTENDED TO MAKE A SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE, BUT THE
NEW LANGUAGE MIGHT HAVE SET OUT TOO CLEARLY THE NOTION THAT
GROUND MANPOWER WAS ONE STEP AND THAT AIR MANPOWER WAS
ANOTHER STEP. HE INQUIRED IF THE US COULD GO BACK TO THE
EARLIER MAJORITY LANGUAGE: "...ON FIRST GROUND FORCE MAN-

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POWER AND THEN AIR FORCE MANPOWER."

2. WE REPLIED THAT IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE ANY AMBIGUITY
REGARDING THE WORD "PROGRESSIVE," THE PRESENT IS LANGUAGE
ON TWO STEPS WAS CLEARLY PREFERABLE. HOWEVER, WE THOUGHT
THE MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE TO WASHINGTON WOULD BE THE PHRASE
ACTUALLY PROPOSED BY THE FRG AT THE JULY 7 SPC MEETING:

"...ON FIRST GROUND FORCE MANPOWER AND AS A SECOND STEP AIR FORCE MANPOWER." WE SAID THIS LANGUAGE CLEARLY FIT THE FRG REP'S STATEMENT AT JULY 7 MEETING THAT FRG WAS PREPARED TO HAVE ESSENTIALLY TWO STEPS. CITRON SAID HE WOULD REPORT.

3. IF FRG SHOULD PROPOSE RE-INSTITUTION OF THE EARLIER MAJORITY PHRASE ("ON FIRST GROUND FORCE MANPOWER AND THEN AIR FORCE MANPOWER"), WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD ACCEPT IT. ALTHOUGH LESS DESIRABLE THAN THE IS LANGUAGE OR THE LANGUAGE FRG PROPOSED AT JULY 7 SPC MEETING, IT WOULD STILL SERVE THE PURPOSE OF EXPLAINING "PROGRESSIVE" AS A TWO-STEP GROUND/AIR APPROACH.

4. AT A BRIEF MEETING ON THE AFTERNOON OF JULY 7, MISSION OFFICER AND PABSCH (NATO IS DISARMAMENT CHIEF-FRG) BOTH IMPRESSED ON FRG DELEGATION OFFICER VON BUTLER (SCHNELLER'S REPLACEMENT) THAT REFERRING TO "INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE HEADQUARTERS" IN PARA 1C OF THE DRAFT GUIDANCE, AS FRG WISHES, COULD GIVE THE OTHER SIDE AN EASY EXCUSE TO REJECT THE WHOLE WESTERN OFFER. WE STRESSED THAT THIS PHRASE WAS COMPLETELY UNNECESSARY AND WOULD DIRECTLY IMPLY EASTERN RECOGNITION OF THE ALLIANCE AS AN INSTITUTION. WE GAINED ALTERNATIVE "MULTILATERAL HEADQUARTERS."

5. ALTHOUGH SPC AGREEMENT ON A TEXT AT MONDAY MEETING WOULD BE DESIRABLE, AGREEMENT AT THE THURSDAY MEETING
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WOULD STILL PERMIT NAC APPROVAL BY SILENCE PROCEDURE ON FRIDAY, AND USE OF THE GUIDANCE BY THE AHG THIS NEGOTIATING ROUND. IF WASHINGTON HAS ANY ADDITIONAL PROPOSALS, SUCH AS VIENNA'S SUGGESTED FOOTNOTE ON AIR MANPOWER, OR A REDUCTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL STAFFS CATEGORY, WE WOULD, AS WE NORMALLY DO, INFORM FRG AND OTHER KEY DELEGATIONS EARLY MONDAY MORNING. FRG AND OTHERS MAY HAVE A REACTION FROM CAPITALS IN TIME FOR SPC MEETING AT 1530 THAT AFTERNOON. HOWEVER, IN THE EVENT THESE DELEGATIONS CANNOT GET INSTRUCTIONS ON ANY NEW US PROPOSALS BY MONDAY AFTERNOON, OR IF THEIR INSTRUCTIONS ARE NEGATIVE, WE WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING IF WASHINGTON WOULD WISH US TO MAINTAIN SUCH PROPOSALS UNTIL THURSDAY. IN ADDITION, IF FRG ON MONDAY STILL SUPPORTS REFERRING TO "INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE HEADQUARTERS" IN PARA 1C, AND IF FRG CANNOT JOIN THE MAJORITY IN SWITCHING INDEPENDENT DIVISIONS FROM PARA 1A TO PARA 1D, WE WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING IF WASHINGTON ATTACHES SUFFICIENT IMPORTANCE TO THESE TWO ISSUES TO REQUIRE ANOTHER SPC MEETING ON THURSDAY.
STREATOR

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